

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process of detecting and communicating alarm events by a security system, said process comprising:

monitoring sensors in communication with the security system, where specific changes in outputs of the sensors indicate an alarm event;

5 determining whether a landline communication medium connecting the security system with a monitoring headquarters is active, when the alarm event is detected;

sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the landline communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the landline communication medium is determined to be active; and

10 sending data, indicating the alarm event, over a wireless communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the landline communication medium is not determined to be active.

2. A process as recited in claim 1, further comprising querying the sensors to determine baseline output states of the sensors.

3. A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over a wireless communication medium comprises establishing a wireless communication connection with the monitoring headquarters and sending the data through the wireless communication connection.

4. A process as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the landline communication medium comprises sending the data, indicating the alarm event, over a telephone line to the monitoring headquarters.

5. A process as recited in claim 4, wherein said step of determining whether a landline communication medium connecting the security system with a monitoring headquarters is active comprises detecting whether the telephone line will allow for a connection to be made to a telephone network.

6. A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over a wireless communication medium comprises sending the data through a satellite communications link with the monitoring headquarters.

7. A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over a wireless communication medium comprises sending the data through a cellular telephone network to the monitoring headquarters.

8. A process as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over a wireless communication medium comprises sending the data through a wireless data service to the monitoring headquarters.

9. A process of detecting and communicating alarm events by a security system,

said process comprising:

monitoring a landline communication medium which connects the security system with a monitoring headquarters, to determine whether the landline communication medium is active;

switching a default communication medium from the landline communication medium to a wireless communication medium, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active; and

sending data, indicating an alarm event, over the default communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the alarm event is detected.

10. A process as recited in claim 9, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the default communication medium comprises establishing a wireless communication connection with the monitoring headquarters and sending the data through the wireless communication connection, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

11. A process as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the default communication medium comprises sending the data, indicating the alarm event, over a telephone line to the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to be active.

12. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein said monitoring a landline

communication medium, connecting the security system with a monitoring headquarters, to determine whether the landline communication medium is active comprises detecting whether the telephone line will allow for a connection to be made
5 to a telephone network.

13. A process as recited in claim 9, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the default communication medium comprises sending the data through a satellite communications link with the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

14. A process as recited in claim 9, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the default communication medium comprises sending the data through a cellular telephone network to the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

15. A process as recited in claim 9, wherein said step of sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the default communication medium comprises sending the data through a wireless data service to the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

16. A process as recited in claim 9, further comprising setting the default communication medium to both the landline communication medium and the wireless

communication medium, when both the landline communication medium and the wireless communication medium are active.

17. A security system for detecting and communicating alarm events, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring sensors in communication with the security system, where specific changes in outputs of the sensors indicate an alarm event;

5 determining means for determining whether a landline communication medium connecting the security system with a monitoring headquarters is active, when the alarm event is detected;

first sending means for sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the landline communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the landline
10 communication medium is determined to be active; and

second sending means for sending data, indicating the alarm event, over a wireless communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the landline communication medium is not determined to be active.

18. A security system as recited in claim 17, further comprising querying means for querying the sensors to determine baseline output states of the sensors.

19. A security system as recited in claim 17, wherein said second sending means comprises establishing means for establishing a wireless communication connection

with the monitoring headquarters and third sending means for sending the data through the wireless communication connection.

20. A security system as recited in claim 17, wherein the first sending means comprises third sending means for sending the data, indicating the alarm event, over a telephone line to the monitoring headquarters.

21. A security system as recited in claim 20, wherein said determining means comprises detecting means for detecting whether the telephone line will allow for a connection to be made to a telephone network.

22. A security system as recited in claim 17, wherein said second sending means comprises third sending means for sending the data through a satellite communications link with the monitoring headquarters.

23. A security system as recited in claim 17, wherein said second sending means comprises third sending means for sending the data through a cellular telephone network to the monitoring headquarters.

24. A security system as recited in claim 17, wherein said second sending means comprises third sending means for sending the data through a wireless data service to the monitoring headquarters.

25. A security system for detecting and communicating alarm events, comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring a landline communication medium which connects the security system with a monitoring headquarters, to determine whether the

5 landline communication medium is active;

switching means for switching a default communication medium from the landline communication medium to a wireless communication medium, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active; and

10 sending means for sending data, indicating an alarm event, over the default communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the alarm event is detected.

26. A security system as recited in claim 25, wherein said sending means comprises establishing means for establishing a wireless communication connection with the monitoring headquarters and second sending means for sending the data through the wireless communication connection.

27. A security system as recited in claim 25, wherein said sending means comprises second sending means for sending the data, indicating the alarm event, over a telephone line to the monitoring headquarters.

28. A security system as recited in claim 27, wherein said monitoring means

comprises detecting means for detecting whether the telephone line will allow for a connection to be made to a telephone network.

29. A security system as recited in claim 25, wherein said sending means comprises second sending means for sending the data through a satellite communications link with the monitoring headquarters.

30. A security system as recited in claim 25, wherein said sending means comprises second sending means for sending the data through a cellular telephone network to the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

31. A security system as recited in claim 25, wherein said sending means comprises second sending means for sending the data through a wireless data service to the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

32. A security system as recited in claim 25, further comprising setting means for setting the default communication medium to both the landline communication medium and the wireless communication medium, when both the landline communication medium and the wireless communication medium are active.

33. A security system for detecting and communicating alarm events, comprising:

a monitor, for monitoring sensors in communication with the security system, where specific changes in outputs of the sensors indicate an alarm event;

5 a determiner, for determining whether a landline communication medium connecting the security system with a monitoring headquarters is active, when the alarm event is detected;

a first transmitting unit, for sending data, indicating the alarm event, over the landline communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the landline
10 communication medium is determined to be active; and

a second transmitting unit, for sending data, indicating the alarm event, over a wireless communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the landline communication medium is not determined to be active.

34. A security system as recited in claim 33, further comprising a polling unit for querying the sensors to determine baseline output states of the sensors.

35. A security system as recited in claim 33, wherein said second transmitting unit comprises a link establisher for establishing a wireless communication connection with the monitoring headquarters and a third transmitting unit for sending the data through the wireless communication connection.

36. A security system as recited in claim 33, wherein the first transmitting unit comprises a third transmitting unit for sending the data, indicating the alarm event, over a telephone line to the monitoring headquarters.

37. A security system as recited in claim 36, wherein said determiner comprises a detector for detecting whether the telephone line will allow for a connection to be made to a telephone network.

38. A security system as recited in claim 33, wherein said second transmitting unit comprises a third transmitting unit for sending the data through a satellite communications link with the monitoring headquarters.

39. A security system as recited in claim 33, wherein said second transmitting unit comprises a third transmitting unit for sending the data through a cellular telephone network to the monitoring headquarters.

40. A security system as recited in claim 33, wherein said second transmitting unit comprises a third transmitting unit for sending the data through a wireless data service to the monitoring headquarters.

41. A security system for detecting and communicating alarm events, comprising:

a monitor, for monitoring a landline communication medium which connects the security system with a monitoring headquarters, to determine whether the landline communication medium is active;

a switch, for switching a default communication medium from the landline communication medium to a wireless communication medium, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active; and

a transmitting unit for sending data, indicating an alarm event, over the default communication medium to the monitoring headquarters when the alarm event is detected.

42. A security system as recited in claim 41, wherein said transmitting unit comprises an establisher for establishing a wireless communication connection with the monitoring headquarters and a second transmitting unit for sending the data through the wireless communication connection.

43. A security system as recited in claim 41, wherein said transmitting unit comprises a second transmitting unit for sending the data, indicating the alarm event, over a telephone line to the monitoring headquarters.

44. A security system as recited in claim 43, wherein said monitor comprises a detector for detecting whether the telephone line will allow for a connection to be made to a telephone network.

45. A security system as recited in claim 41, wherein said transmitting unit comprises a second transmitting unit for sending the data through a satellite communications link with the monitoring headquarters.

46. A security system as recited in claim 41, wherein said transmitting unit comprises a second transmitting unit for sending the data through a cellular telephone network to the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

47. A security system as recited in claim 41, wherein said sending means comprises a second transmitting unit for sending the data through a wireless data service to the monitoring headquarters, when the landline communication medium is determined to not be active.

48. A security system as recited in claim 41, further comprising an establisher for setting the default communication medium to both the landline communication medium and the wireless communication medium, when both the landline communication medium and the wireless communication medium are active.